

# INITIAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NINETEEN THIRTY - ONE

[Initial Report of the Regional Planning Commission, Hamilton County, Ohio, 1931.](#)

[ 22 MB | PDF ]

## Foreword



THE Regional Planning Commission of Hamilton County was organized on March 21, 1929, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1366-13 of the General Laws of Ohio, as enacted April 17, 1923, providing for regional and county planning commissions. It began to function actively on July 1, 1929.

The need for regional planning arises from the unorganized, unrelated growth of regional areas due to the lack of any general plan and to the lack of cooperation among various political subdivisions in the solution of common problems.

The purpose of establishing the Regional Planning Commission was to create an agency that would coordinate the physical improvements undertaken by the numerous local subdivisions in accordance with comprehensive plans to be prepared by such commission for the entire region, thus to promote the harmonious and integrated development thereof. The need for such plans and such coordination has long been felt by many persons. Various highway and sewer projects, questions of water supply, the long-delayed Duck Creek Parkway improvement, furnished ample demonstration of such need.

Besides Cincinnati there are twenty-four cities and villages in the county. Twelve of these had planning commissions in 1929. There was no agency to harmonize the plans and improvements of these twenty-five communities with one another and with some plan for the development of the unincorporated area of the county. It became more manifest daily that the solution of problems and the carrying out of improvements in which several political subdivisions had a common interest would be very difficult, and that there would be no way of preventing the repetition of mistakes and misfits in community building, unless the development of the unspoiled, urbanizing or rural areas be guided by carefully prepared, comprehensive plans for the entire Region.

Foregoing at this time the inclusion of Campbell and Kenton Counties in Kentucky, because of lack of legal authority, although realizing that these are, in part at least, within the limits of the Region as a logical planning unit, the geographical boundaries of the Region were established as those of Hamilton County. The County contains 407 square miles and had a population of 589,356 in April, 1930, according to the United States Census Bureau.

Out of a total of twenty-five cities and villages in the county, fifteen\* are at present represented on the Regional Planning Commission, including Cincinnati and including the entire unincorporated area of the county. The latter is represented by the three County Commissioners, and each municipality by two members; the City Manager and the Chairman of the City Planning Commission in the case of Cincinnati, and the Mayor and one member of the Planning Commission in the case of most of the other municipalities. It may thus be seen that through the composition of its membership the Regional Planning Commission is in theoretical contact with the planning and administrative authorities of practically the entire county, 98.4 per cent of the county area having representation on the Commission.

The Regional Planning Commission of Hamilton County is an official organization. It is being financed by public funds. Its expenses are pro rated among the constituent municipalities and the county on the basis of their proportionate area. By far the largest share of its expenses is, of course, borne by the County (\$15,565 for 1931), followed by the City of Cincinnati (\$3,575); individual villages contributing modest amounts, the smallest being that of the Village of Harrison (\$15).

In addition to the major activities of the Regional Planning Commission during the first two years of its operation, described in the following pages, members of the Commission and of the staff have carried on a considerable amount of educational and promotional work. They have appeared before municipal councils and planning commissions and addressed civic and business organizations in the several communities on subjects related to the Commission's work, to disseminate information on regional planning and to arouse interest therein. The appointment of at least one municipal planning commission and the maintaining of interest on the part of several others, is directly due to such efforts.

The Regional Planning Commission is fully aware of the fact that the success of its work will not be measured so much by the quality of the plans it is preparing, as by the extent of the application of these plans. Also that the success of its work, aside from well-conceived, thorough and practical plans, will depend largely on the interest and support of an enlightened and forward-looking citizenry. It will rest with the citizens of Hamilton County whether they are to allow the unregulated growth of the past to continue with its dangers to the economic and social wellbeing of present and future generations, or whether they are ready to lend their support to the laying of the foundation of a healthier, happier, more prosperous community life by planning systematically for the future.

Charles H. Urban, Chairman  
July 1931

\*Madeira's Planning Commission has been appointed since the completion of Plate I.